

Internet Filtering Policy

Sections

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Pinkerton Academy provides Internet access to Employees, Students, and Guests on campus. This access is filtered and certain sites may be blocked for various reasons. Those reasons include (but aren't limited to):

- 1) Student safety and CIPA compliance
- 2) Protection of the computer and network infrastructure
- 3) Limit distractions during class time

Sites are blocked based on what category the content of the site falls under. For information on what these categories are see section **3.4 Category Descriptions**. If you find a site blocked that you feel has been incorrectly categorized or should be allowed for legitimate school use, please contact the IT Department.

In addition to filtering, all Internet access is monitored and logged. For information on how these logs are utilized see section **3.3 Monitoring**.

3.1 Sites Explicitly Blocked

These sites are explicitly blocked regardless of what category they fall under.

Do these conflict with the AUP? Employees are encouraged to use social media and web 2.0 tools.

Should students and employees have the same filtering rules?

	Students	Employees	Guests
Facebook.com	X	X	
Twitter.com	X		
Youtube.com	X		

3.2 Categories Blocked

Sites are blocked based on what category the content on that site falls under. These categorized lists are maintained by a third party, and are updated daily. It is possible for a site to fall under multiple categories.

Should games sites be blocked to reduce distractions in labs?

	Students	Employees	Guests
Anonymizers**	X	X	X
Anonymizing Utilities**	X	X	X
Botnet**	X	X	X
Criminal Activities*	X	X	X
Dubious	X	X	X
Gambling	X	X	X
Games	X		
Hacking/Computer Crime**	X	X	X
Hate/Discrimination	X	X	X
Illegal Drugs	X	X	X
Illegal Software**	X	X	X
Malicious**	X	X	X
Nudity	X	X	X
Obscene/Tasteless*	X	X	X
Online Communities	X		
Phishing**	X	X	X
Pornography*	X	X	X
Profanity	X	X	X
School Cheating Information	X		
Spam URLs	X	X	X
Spyware/Adware**	X	X	X
Violence*	X	X	X
Weapons	X	X	X

* Categories fall under the CIPA definition of “harmful to minors”
** Categories pose a threat to the stability and security of the computer network

3.3 Monitoring

Pinkerton’s Internet filtering system keeps a log of all Internet traffic for Students, Employees, and Guest access. Student access log is actively monitored for sites and keywords that are deemed harmful or inappropriate. These logs are accessible by the student’s administrator, and disciplinary action may be taken.

Employee and Guest access is not actively monitored or accessible by the administration. However, these logs are still kept for a period of time and can be retrieved if deemed necessary (for example: violations of the Internet Acceptable Use Policy.)

Clarification on who can give authorization to look at employee access logs

3.4 Category Descriptions

The list below briefly describes each of the blocked categories.

Anonymizers

Anonymizer Web sites are sites used to anonymize a user's originating IP address

Anonymizing Utilities

Anonymizing utilities Web sites are sites which promote, offer, sell, supply, encourage or otherwise advocate the use, manufacture, or distribution of anonymizing utilities.

Botnet

Botnet sites are sites which covertly install applications onto targeted systems allowing unauthorized remote control for malicious activity.

Criminal Activities

Criminal activities Web sites are sites which promote, offer, sell, supply, encourage or otherwise advocate illegal activities, or describe how to commit criminal activity.

Dubious

Dubious Web sites are sites with questionable, suspicious, or ethically ambiguous content.

Gambling

Gambling Web sites are sites where a user can place a bet or participate in a betting pool (including lotteries) online; obtain information, assistance or recommendations for placing a bet; receive instructions, assistance or training on participating in games of chance

Games

Games Web sites are sites that distribute, display, discuss or promote game related content, e.g., board games, video games, etc.

Hacking/Computer Crime

Computer hacking/crime Web sites are sites which advocate or provide instructions for causing harm to people or property through use of unauthorized computer activity.

Hate/Discrimination

Hate Web sites are sites which advocate hostility or aggression toward an individual or group on the basis of race, religion, gender, nationality, ethnic origin, or other involuntary characteristics; a site which denigrates others on the basis of those characteristics or justifies inequality on the basis of those characteristics; a site which purports to use scientific or other commonly accredited methods to justify said aggression, hostility or denigration.

Illegal Drugs

Drug Web sites are sites which promote, offer, sell, supply, encourage or otherwise advocate the recreational or illegal use, cultivation, manufacture, or distribution of drugs, pharmaceuticals, intoxicating plants or chemicals and their related paraphernalia.

Illegal Software

Illegal Software Web sites are sites which promote, offer, sells, supply, encourage or otherwise advocate the use, cultivation, manufacture, or distribution of software that is illegal in one or more major jurisdictions.

Malicious

Malicious Web sites covertly install applications onto targeted systems with the intent of causing harm to people or property through use of unauthorized computer activity.

Nudity

Web sites are sites containing images of human nudity, e.g., nude art, incidental nudity

Obscene/Tasteless

Obscene/Tasteless Web sites provide vulgar, crude, disgusting or otherwise offensive material, e.g., mutilation, murder, and defecation.

Online Communities

Online Community Web sites are sites which provide dynamic content for the purpose of social networking. These sites may include access for adding, removing, and updating personal content.

Phishing

Phishing sites are sites that masquerade as a trustworthy entity for the purpose of tricking users into disclosing personal information.

Pornography

Pornographic Web sites are sites containing sexually explicit material for the purpose of arousing a sexual or prurient interest.

Profanity

Profanity Web sites are sites that advocate or convey what may be interpreted as insulting, rude or vulgar behavior (through words, gestures, or other behavior); or otherwise show disrespect towards, or desecration of, something held sacred.

School Cheating Information

School Cheating Information Web sites are sites which promote, offer, sell, supply, encourage or otherwise advocate information used to cheat in school.

Spam URLs

Spam Web sites are sites that contain unsolicited information from spam e-mails.

Spyware/Adware

Spyware/adware Web sites are sites which covertly install applications onto targeted systems with the intent of performing unsolicited activity, namely, transmitting personal information or providing unsolicited advertisements.

Violence

Violence Web sites are sites which advocate or provide instructions for causing physical harm to people or property through use of weapons, explosives, pranks, or other types of violence.

Weapons

Weapons sites are sites which sell, review, or describe legal weapons such as: guns, knives, or martial arts devices; provide information on their use, accessories, or other modifications.
